

Achieving TREASURE Forest Certification

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Successfully reaching a goal can be very fulfilling. As a general rule, the harder the goal is to reach, the more gratifying the satisfaction when it is reached. This is true in all phases of our life; as a child receiving a merit badge, as a youth graduating from high school, and as an adult throughout life. The goals obviously change but the desire to reach a higher level and the great joy of reaching a goal remains the same.

For many landowners TREASURE Forest certification is the goal they desire. The first step in this process is when the landowner discovers what TREASURE Forest is and decides to make certification a personal goal. This usually occurs when the landowner hears about the program from a neighboring landowner or a local natural resource professional.

The next phase in the process, for the landowner, is to learn what the TREASURE Forest standards and minimum requirements are and to begin working toward that standard. The on-the-ground accomplishments achieved by the landowner while striving to reach certification is a critical display of their desire and merit. Reaching this goal can bring a wonderful sense of accomplishment if the landowner has truly worked to achieve the award.

It is the TREASURE Forest subcommittee's mission to review the nomina-

tions on a quarterly basis and to assure compliance with procedures for certified TREASURE Forests. The subcommittee has the job of accepting, denying or deferring the nomination. Most nominations are accepted. The number of nominations that are turned down or deferred

3. Sufficient non-objective accomplishments that meet the minimum standards outlined in the TREASURE Forest Minimum Standards brochure.

4. A positive referral by the reviewing forester and wildlife biologist recommending certification.

5. No detrimental practices being conducted or allowed on the nominated property (examples: soil erosion on the property without attempt to control it, over-population of wildlife without attempt to control it, or lack of desire to harvest timber once it reaches maturity).

6. A property that will positively reflect the TREASURE Forest program.

7. A landowner who displays a desire to manage

his/her resources in a manner that is commonly considered proper management.

8. A landowner that promotes and practices sound, sustainable multiple-use resource management, and uses his/her property wisely while protecting and enhancing the environment.

The title of TREASURE Forest owner is an honor afforded to few landowners. It takes sometimes years of work to reach this distinguished goal. Because of this, the TREASURE Forest subcommittee is dedicated to upholding the highest standards for certification. 🏡



is less than five percent each year. This reflects positively on the foresters and biologists preparing nominations and conducting inspections.

The following list identifies the qualifications that the TREASURE Forest subcommittee looks for when reviewing a nomination for TREASURE Forest.

1. A TREASURE Forest nomination form that is completed in its entirety.

2. Sufficient accomplishments in the primary and secondary objectives that meet the minimum standards outlined in the TREASURE Forest Minimum Standards brochure.